

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-12, 15-33, 35-38, and 40-45 are pending. Claims 5, 7, 13, 14, 34, and 39 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 23, 29, 38, and 45 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments may be found in at least paragraph 0013 of the application. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

I. 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office has objected to claims 29-33, 35-37, and 45, at page 2 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicants have amended claim 29 accordingly. Therefore, claims 29-33, 35-37, and 45 comply with 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections be withdrawn.

II. 35 U.S.C. §103

A. Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 20-24, 26, 29, 32-33, 38, and 40-45 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1-2, 4, 6, 20-24, 26, 29, 32-33, 38, and 40-45, at page 3 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,619,555 (“Fenton”) in view of U.S. Application No. 2005/0015444 (“Rambo”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 20-22

The cited portions of Fenton and Rambo, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 1. In contrast to claim 1, Fenton discloses an audio conferencing system whereby an audio conference participant interfaces with the system through a graphical user interface (GUI) computer program running on a remote computer or workstation. See Fenton, Abstract. Fenton further discloses that an authorized participant is either the conference organizer or any invited

conference participant. Fenton, col. 8, lines 25-27. The cited portions of Fenton fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 1.

In further contrast to claim 1, Rambo discloses a system and method to effectively schedule and configure video and audio conferences. See Rambo, Abstract. In Rambo, fingerprints or facial profiling may be used to identify a participant. See Rambo, paragraph 0019. The cited portions of Rambo fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 1. Therefore, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2, 4, 6, and 20-22 depend from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 2, 4, 6, and 20-22 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

In addition, the dependent claims disclose additional elements not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo. For example, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest that a status of each call participant is selected from a group consisting of an on-call state, an off-call state, a currently speaking state, a waiting to speak state, and a paused-call state, as in claim 6. In addition, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest updating a GUI element to indicate a desire of a first call participant to communicate with at least a second call participant via a collaborative call, as in claim 12. For at least these additional reasons, claims 6 and 12 are allowable.

Claims 23-24 and 26

The cited portions of Fenton and Rambo, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 23. For example, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 23. In contrast to claim 23, Fenton discloses an audio conferencing system whereby an audio conference participant interfaces with the system through a graphical user interface (GUI) computer program running on a remote computer or workstation. See Fenton, Abstract. Fenton

further discloses that an authorized participant is either the conference organizer or any invited conference participant. Fenton, col. 8, lines 25-27. The cited portions of Fenton fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 23.

In further contrast to claim 23, Rambo discloses a system and method to effectively schedule and configure video and audio conferences. See Rambo, Abstract. In Rambo, fingerprints or facial profiling may be used to identify a participant. See Rambo, paragraph 0019. The cited portions of Rambo fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 23. Therefore, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 23. Hence, claim 23 is allowable.

Claims 24 and 26 depend from claim 23, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 24 and 26 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 23. In addition, the dependent claims disclose additional elements not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo. For example, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest that a status of each call participant is selected from a group consisting of an on-call state, an off-call state, a currently speaking state, a waiting to speak state, and a paused-call state, as in claim 26. For at least this additional reason, claim 26 is allowable.

Claims 29, 32-33, and 45

The cited portions of Fenton and Rambo, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 29. For example, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 29. In contrast to claim 29, Fenton discloses an audio conferencing system whereby an audio conference participant interfaces with the system through a graphical user interface (GUI) computer program running on a remote computer or workstation. See Fenton, Abstract. Fenton further discloses that an authorized participant is either the conference organizer or any invited conference participant. Fenton, col. 8, lines 25-27. The cited portions of Fenton fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 29.

In further contrast to claim 29, Rambo discloses a system and method to effectively schedule and configure video and audio conferences. See Rambo, Abstract. In Rambo, fingerprints or facial profiling may be used to identify a participant. See Rambo, paragraph 0019. The cited portions of Rambo fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 29. Therefore, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 29. Hence, claim 29 is allowable.

Claims 32-33 and 45 depend from claim 29, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 32-33 and 45 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 29.

In addition, the dependent claims disclose additional elements not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo. For example, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest an update engine associated with a presentation engine, the update engine operable to initiate an updating of a first GUI and a second GUI in response to a change in a status of a particular participant, as in claim 32. In addition, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest displaying one of an image and a portion of a document on at least one of a first GUI and a second GUI during a collaborative call, as in claim 45. For at least these additional reasons, claims 32 and 45 are allowable.

Claims 38 and 40-44

The cited portions of Fenton and Rambo, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 38. For example, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified as a host via voice recognition, as in claim 38. In contrast to claim 38, Fenton discloses an audio conferencing system whereby an audio conference participant interfaces with the system through a GUI computer program running on a remote computer or workstation. See Fenton, Abstract. Fenton further discloses that an authorized participant is either the conference organizer or any invited conference participant. Fenton, col. 8, lines 25-27. The cited portions of Fenton fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified as a host via voice recognition, as in claim 38.

In further contrast to claim 38, Rambo discloses a system and method to effectively schedule and configure video and audio conferences. See Rambo, Abstract. In Rambo, fingerprints or facial profiling may be used to identify a participant. See Rambo, paragraph 0019. The cited portions of Rambo fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified as a host via voice recognition, as in claim 38. Therefore, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 38. Hence, claim 38 is allowable.

Claims 40-44 depend from claim 38, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 40-44 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 38.

B. Claims 3 and 35 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 3 and 35, at page 20 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Fenton and Rambo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,465 (“Pickett”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 3

Claim 3 depends from claim 1. As discussed above, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. The cited portions of Pickett fail to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 1 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo. Instead, Pickett discloses systems and methods for multiple native mode/protocol voice and data transmissions and receptions with a computing system having a multi-bus structure, including, for example, a TDM bus and a packet bus, and multi-protocol framing engines. See Pickett, Abstract. The cited portions of Pickett fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Hence, claim 3 is allowable, at least by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

In addition, claim 3 discloses additional elements not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Fenton, Rambo, and Pickett. For example, the cited portions of Fenton, Rambo, and

Pickett fail to disclose or suggest identifying a participant that is speaking during a collaborative call via voice recognition, as in claim 3. For at least this additional reason, claim 3 is allowable.

Claim 35

Claim 35 depends from claim 29. As discussed above, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 29. The cited portions of Pickett fail to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 29 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo. Instead, Pickett discloses systems and methods for multiple native mode/protocol voice and data transmissions and receptions with a computing system having a multi-bus structure, including, for example, a TDM bus and a packet bus, and multi-protocol framing engines. See Pickett, Abstract. The cited portions of Pickett fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 29. Therefore, claim 29 is allowable. Hence, claim 35 is allowable, at least by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

C. Claims 8, 12, 15, and 37 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 8, 12, 15, and 37, at page 21 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Fenton and Rambo in view of U.S. Application No. 2004/0047461 (“Weisman”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 8, 12, and 15

Claims 8, 12, and 15 depend from claim 1. As discussed above, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. The cited portions of Weisman fail to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 1 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo. Instead, Weisman discloses a method and apparatus to allow individuals to initiate, join, manage, and participant in a conference call. See Weisman, Abstract. The cited portions of Weisman fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Hence, claims 8, 12, and 15 are allowable, at least by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

In addition, the dependent claims disclose additional elements not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Fenton, Rambo, and Weisman. For example, the cited portions of Fenton, Rambo, and Weisman fail to disclose or suggest updating a GUI element to indicate a desire of a first call participant to communicate with at least a second call participant via a collaborative call, as in claim 12. For at least this additional reason, claim 12 is allowable.

Claim 37

Claim 37 depends from claim 29. As discussed above, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 29. The cited portions of Weisman fail to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 29 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo. Instead, Weisman discloses a method and apparatus to allow individuals to initiate, join, manage, and participant in a conference call. See Weisman, Abstract. The cited portions of Weisman fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 29. Therefore, claim 29 is allowable. Hence, claim 37 is allowable, at least by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

In addition, the cited portions of Fenton, Rambo, and Weisman, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a next to speak engine associated with a presentation engine, the next to speak engine operable to recognize a desire of a participant to communicate via a collaborative call and to initiate presentation of an indication of the desire in a first GUI, as in claim 37. For at least this additional reason, claim 37 is allowable.

D. Claims 9, 16-19, 25, 27-28, and 31 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 9, 16-19, 25, 27-28, and 31, at page 24 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Fenton and Rambo in view of U.S. Application No. 2003/0169291 (“Nakata”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 9 and 16-19

Claims 9 and 16-19 depend from claim 1. As discussed above, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. The cited portions of Nakata fail to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 1 not disclosed or suggested by the

cited portions of Fenton and Rambo. In contrast to claim 1, Nakata discloses a desktop conference method and a desktop conference system for performance of semiconductor device process or a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus utilizing a communication system in a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus business. See Nakata, paragraph 0001. The cited portions of Nakata fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Hence, claims 9 and 16-19 are allowable, at least by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

Claims 25 and 27-28

Claims 25 and 27-28 depend from claim 23. As discussed above, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 23. The cited portions of Nakata fail to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 23 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo. Instead, Nakata discloses a desktop conference method and a desktop conference system for performance of semiconductor device process or a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus utilizing a communication system in a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus business. See Nakata, paragraph 0001. The cited portions of Nakata fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 23. Therefore, claim 23 is allowable. Accordingly, claims 25 and 27-28 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from an allowable claim.

Claim 31

Claim 31 depends from claim 29. As discussed above, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 29. The cited portions of Nakata fail to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 29 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo. Instead, Nakata discloses a desktop conference method and a desktop conference system for performance of semiconductor device process or a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus utilizing a communication system in a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus business. See Nakata, paragraph 0001. The cited portions of Nakata fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 29. Therefore, claim 29 is allowable. Accordingly, claim 31 is allowable, at least by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

E. Claims 10-11 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 10-11, at page 30 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Fenton, Rambo, Nakata and Weisman. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 10-11 depend from claim 1. As previously discussed, the cited portions of Fenton, Rambo, Nakata, and Weisman fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly, claims 10-11 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from an allowable claim.

F. Claim 30 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 30, at page 32 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Fenton and Rambo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,192,118 (“Bayless”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 30 depends from claim 29. As discussed above, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 29. The cited portions of Bayless fail to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 29 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo. Instead, Bayless discloses a server computer system that provides telephony services, database services and access to E-mail, voice mail, video conferencing and facsimile systems. See Bayless, Abstract. The cited portions of Bayless fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 29. Therefore, claim 29 is allowable. Accordingly, claim 30 is allowable, at least by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

G. Claim 36 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 36, at page 32 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Fenton and Rambo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,134,235 (“Goldman”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 36 depends from claim 29. As discussed above, the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 29. The cited portions of Goldman fail to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 29 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Fenton and Rambo. Instead, Goldman discloses a system and method for bridging a Plain Ordinary Telephone Service (POTS) network and a packet network, such as the Internet, that uses a set of access objects that provide the interfacing and functionality for exchanging address and payload information with the packet network, and for exchanging payload information with the payload subnetwork and signaling information with the signaling subnetwork of the POTS network. See Goldman, Abstract. The cited portions of Goldman fail to disclose or suggest that a caller is identified via voice recognition, as in claim 29. Therefore, claim 29 is allowable. Hence, claim 36 is allowable, at least by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the cited portions of the references applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

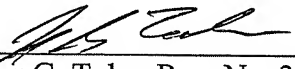
Any changes to the claims in this response, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the cited art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

3-31-2009
Date

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